

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).
2. (currently amended): A packing material for solid phase extraction, comprising a synthetic polymer obtained by copolymerizing a hydrophobic monomer (A) which comprises an aromatic divinyl compound and a hydrophilic monomer (B) which comprises a (meth)acrylic acid ester of a polyhydric alcohol having a hydroxyl group, wherein the (meth)acrylic acid ester of a polyhydric alcohol having a hydroxyl group is glycerol dimethacrylate, and introducing thereto an ion exchange group by a chemical modification comprising the step of introducing said ion exchange group by chemically bonding it to a hydroxyl group introduced from said ~~(meth)acrylic acid ester of polyhydric alcohol having a hydroxyl group~~ glycerol dimethacrylate as the hydrophilic monomer (B), wherein said ion exchange group is covalently bonded to said polymer.
3. (previously presented): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, which contains an aromatic divinyl compound as the hydrophobic monomer (A) in an amount of 30% by mass or more based on a total amount of monomers.

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4. (currently amended): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, which further contains an N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide as the hydrophilic monomer (B) in an amount of 5 to 60% by mass based on the total amount of monomers.

5. (original): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 4, wherein the N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide is N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone or N-vinylacetamide.

6. (previously presented): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, which contains a (meth)acrylic acid ester of a polyhydric alcohol having a hydroxyl group as the hydrophilic monomer (B) in an amount of 10% by mass or more based on a total amount of monomers.

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ion exchange group covalently bonded is a sulfo group or a quaternary ammonium.

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10. (previously presented): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, wherein an amount of an ion-exchange group covalently bonded is 5 μ -equivalent or more based on 1 dry gram of the packing material.

11. (previously presented): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, which packs a packing apparatus.

12. (original): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 11, wherein the packing apparatus is a column, a cartridge or a reservoir.

13. (previously presented): The packing material for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 2, which is used for concentrating an objective component and/or removing impurities or contaminants.

14. (canceled).

15. (withdrawn): A method comprising carrying out a solid phase extraction employing a column switching method and the packing material for solid phase extraction described in claim 2.

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16. (previously presented): A column for solid phase extraction, comprising a column packed with the packing material for solid phase extraction described in claim 2.

17. (previously presented): A cartridge for solid phase extraction, comprising a cartridge packed with the packing material for solid phase extraction described in claim 2.

18. (original): The column for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 16, which concentrates, identifies or quantifies an objective component and/or removes impurities or contaminants.

19. (original): The cartridge for solid phase extraction as claimed in claim 17, which concentrates, identifies or quantifies an objective component and/or removes impurities or contaminants.

20. (withdrawn): A solid phase extraction method for an environment-related, medical or biological sample, comprising concentrating, identifying or quantifying an objective component and/or removing impurities with the column for solid phase extraction described in claim 16.

21. (withdrawn): A solid phase extraction method for an environment-related, medical or biological sample, comprising concentrating, identifying or quantifying an objective.

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22. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein a drug sample in serum is identified or quantified.

23. (withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein a drug sample in serum is identified or quantified.